Bristol, September 2d 1847 — (Sept 3d Friday)

My dear Mr. May.

"Quick returns & small profits" I often hear spoken of as a present principle of trade, & I hope you will not be displeased if I apply it to my correspondence. I confess that it is rather less formidable to me to write frequently & briefly, than to wait until I can indite a long epistle.

I now therefore write chiefly to thank you for your last letter of August 15th which interested me much in the account it gives of the stir among the Boston Unitarians occasioned by what has been going on in our body here — Many thanks for the "Christian Register & World" which give me so lively an impression of the feeling that exists among Unitarians at Boston. I received about 10 newspapers by the last packet; among them the 2 June numbers of the Liberator which had not come in ordinary course. ~~With regard~~ to The manner in which the Chn Register has dealt with my letter to Mr. Tagart (if general among the editors of religious papers) would lead me to suppose that a different standard ~~either~~ of morals, or a different mode of interpreting language exists amongst you, from what is recognized here — It would not be considered very honorable, nor quite honest in an editor, — especially of a religious paper, — to characterize my letter to Mr. T. as containing "offensive personalities", ~~& instead of~~ & in professing to omit such improper parts of the communication, to leave out chiefly and those which speak respectfully of America. Perhaps however the Editor will interpret "offensive personalities" as reference to persons upon subjects not agreeable to them?

Our circulars are receiving answers, & as I anticipated, a majority unfavorable to ~~a~~ the proposed Address. Very few ~~of those~~ persons of most influence (& I may say intelligence) among our body will sign the Address

The reasons are very various. Mr Armstrong in a note to me whilst at Leatherndown says:— (but perhaps I shall be able to inclose the note)

Our move, tho' somewhat discreditable to the movers at present will, I doubt not, induce many of our body to look in to the matter'

I ~~like to tell you~~ am always anxious for you to know every thing under its true colour that you may not act & think with regard to us under erroneous impressions.

You presume Mr Bishop has a good deal of influence amongst us. It is far from the case. He is a very good & valuable man but Mr Robberds of Manchester, or Mr J. J. Tayler, Messrs Martineau, Aspland, Madge, or any one of 8 or 10 more of our Ministers that I could name, ~~would~~ might do more for the A.S. cause among English Unit^s than 20 ministers of Mr Bishop's stamp & sphere of influence. There is a "terrible share" of class feeling among our Ministers dependent upon amount of education, family, property, gentility &c. With occasional exceptions A.S. temperance, peace, & ~~other~~ such movements are confined to those who are not considered among the No 1 class of our ~~clergy~~ pastors. You will not suspect me of undervaluing the labours of these less eminent ministers, but let me beg of you ever to keep it in view, in estimating the worth of English Anti Slavery aid, that it is not our mechanics, operatives & middle class that can do you much good; it is the more educated, the more wealthy, & those, who without any pretension to distinction, or any disposition to look down upon others, do occupy in our Society a higher position than the others I refer to. I by no means would say that any, & all aid was not desirable, but I am anxious to point out to you that which will be most telling, (& particularly as regards the movement now taking place in our body, that which would be most effectual) on Boston Unit^s

Ministers either here or in the U. S.

I enclose a note for Mrs Chapman, but forgot to answer a question of her's as to the general opinion here on the Howitt & Publr of J. dispute. I once referred to the subject in a letter to you. Whenever I have inquired, I have been told both parties are to blame. All say that Mr Howitt is irritable & quarrelsome. I have never yet fallen in with any one who has taken the slightest interest in the dispute. Please to say all this to Mrs C.

You have I hope by this time, (or soon will have) received the several communicat. I sent by Mr Hincks who sailed I believe on the 26th of August. You will probably think the Address drawn up by Mr Armstrong a little involved. I should have preferred a shorter & more pointed document. How far the move has been a judicious one, I am not prepared to say. ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Were it to be the means of letting the Boston Unit. know how few, (& in its worldly sense, insignificant) the A. S. party amongst us is, I think it would encourage them to maintain their non-interference ground. It is not impossible that some of those Unit. Ministers or Laymen here, who are, like Mr Bagot, much annoyed with Mr Armstrong, Mr James & myself, may get up a sort of protest against the unfriendly spirit we have manifested ~~again~~ towards "the American brethren" & a denial of all sympathy in our sentiment. My chief dependence upon this not being done, is, the troublesomeness of such an undertaking. I doubt if there are many whose zeal for the defence of their transatlantic brethren would carry them to such an extent. We have of course not yet settled how to arrange about the mode of drawing it up ourselves for presentation. If names are given, the absence of nearly all known Unit. among us, will be striking. What would you advise. Mr Armstrong called as I was writing the first part of this sheet on his way to Weston super Mare for a little sea air; he begged his kind regards & thanks to my telling you every thing.

the Chr. World & the reprint of my letter to Mr. Tagart - sent by the 1st Aug. Steamship came to hand & were very acceptable at my retirement at Southerndown. — Personally I cared nothing for the address of "Bro. Garrison" affixd to my published letter to Mr. T. Were it read ~~any~~ by an anti-slavery person here, it would appear very ridiculous. — I have written a long letter to Dr. Montgomery, & have more hopes of aid to your cause from influential Irish, than English Unit.s.

You shall have Barker's Volume by the first opporty. I believed I told you that I reviewed it in the Ch. Reformer by Mr. Aspland's desire. Tho' Mr. A. has admitted some rather strong A.S. articles previously in the C.R. he is much opposed to our present Address, & very sore about the Hackney discussion. — Dr. Beard too is as you say of the Inquirer article sadly "foggy" on the subject.

Much as I value your letters, I must beg of you never to inconvenience yourself by writing to me. — I have not reprinted my letter to Mr. Tagart, hardly knowing what use to make of it. Unitarians have read it. Orthodox would be deterred by the name Unit.: from looking at it. — No more zealous A.S. friend in this country exists than Mrs. Richardson, Douglass's great friend, but I think her sympathies are Liberty Party. She has opened a great correspondence ⊙

⊙ with me; she is an Orthodox Quaker, & regrets my Unit.-views. She had some notion of trying to keep F.D. free from all parties. I have expressed my hope that the cause may not be forgotten in regard for the individual, (for the efforts made for F.D.'s benefit seem boundless) She however is fully aware of the necessity of this caution.

Pr. Steamship
Sep. 4th

Sept. 1847

Revd. S. May,
care of
Samuel May Esq.
Boston,
U. States.

BRISTOL
SP 3
1847
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MS.B.1.6 v.2, p.57

+ the articles, & gets published monthly in many of our papers, "Illustrations of Am. Slavery." She is the ~~[illegible]~~ answerer of your letter, (signed, but better written by you,) about the daylight Picts.

I have never seen Mrs. R. but she must be a clever, hard working woman, most indefatigable & liberal in A.S. & other good works: evidently kind hearted, & I should think strictly conscientious. I have written fully to her my views respecting Mr Garrison & his high-toned A.S. principles. She certainly has

prejudices against him, & I should judge
against Mrs Chapman. — But she is
worth reasoning with, & I suspect will
modify her views. — I should like you
to see the first feuille of her letters that
have come to me! her hand is wretchedly
a bad one. — I wish you may find some
reasonable ground for corresponding with her
My regards to Mr Garrison & Douglass when
you write to them — Ever yours, my dear Sir
J. B. Estlin